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ABSTRACT

This report details the proceedings of the Michigan pre-White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services held from March 26-28, 1979. Demonstrations, displays, discussions, elections, and participants are described, and the 68 resolutions arising from the discussions are listed according to the following topics: (1) finance, (2) barriers to library use, (3) outreach, (4) public relations, (5) networking, and (6) the impact of technology on library collections. Photographs are included. (FM)

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A Report

# The Michigan White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services

March 26-28, 1979
Civic Center
Lansing, Michigan

"Information: Books are just the beginning."

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White House Conference on
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## ABSTRACT

The Michigan pre-White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services was held on March 26-28, 1979 in Lansing. 230 delegates, observers and committees addressed six topics: Finance, the sources of funding and allocations; removing roadblocks the library use including physical barriers, political boundaries and services; outreach by means of extending services and supporting Regional Educational Media Centers; public relations; networking; technology.

The Action session voted on the 68 resolutions resulting from the discussion topics. Delegates and alternates to the Washington Conference are featured with a statement by each.

## Why We Came

Why a Michigan pre-White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services? Dr. Jean Lowrie, Chairperson of the Conference and Director of the School of Librarianship at Western Michigan University, suggested

". . .Significance of such a conference is. . .evident. Citizens will have opportunities to voice their concerns and to join in the formation of resolutions. Working with librarians, they will have a clearer understanding of the problems which are related to their needs. In turn both groups should be able to plan strategy and formulate proposed legislation and plan how to implement the support needed to bring better and richer library and information services to **all** people in the state. . ."

That overall announcement of purpose committed conference planners to total state involvement and to careful committee selection that would allow representation from the various types of libraries and of lay persons so that there would be a wide range of ideas and points of view.

To identify library and information needs of citizens in Michigan was the first objective listed under this goal, and to meet it, the state was divided into 21 areas for 21 area meetings. From these meetings, it was hoped, would evolve the base to plan the state program, since citizens and librarians could convene and voice local and regional concerns comfortably, without pressure. The meetings could generate discussion, and serve to inform citizens of opportunities and services currently available from libraries locally, state and nationwide. These would allow local networks of citizen committees to be established and serve as possible springboards to further meetings within areas to create action programs.

A concern to all was that citizen ratio to librarians be on a 2-1 basis at the state conference as directed and, if possible at the area meetings. At both the state and area meetings, "dejargonized" dialog would be encouraged.

Guidelines for selection of delegates were to be drawn up, so that the broad spectrum of Michigan citizens would be ensured at the state and national conference and, even more basic, to create a mechanism for area conferences to select delegates as democratically as possible.

Elizabeth Spencer, Local Arrangements Committee, makes sure the registration goes smoothly.

MAR 3 1 1980

Major focus for delegates at the state conference would be the issues that were suggested at the 21 meetings, and it was important to have background materials for the delegates and alternates to study with their area chairpeople and to discuss with knowledgeable group leaders at the conference. Choosing experts in group dynamics and training them regarding the issues would be imperative so that group discussions could generate relevant resolutions that could be pulled together to form the platform which Michigan would take to the National conference.

All the information forwarded to delegates and alternates, the displays, demonstrations and speakers would reflect the ideas of service, patterns of services by libraries, suggested needs, and relationships between libraries and would be related to the issues developed from the area meetings.

Above all, the conference had to be responsive to the special needs of groups not yet fully served by libaries in Michigan.

Desires for particular outcome of the state conference can be seen in the two quotations that follow. The first is from Dr. Jean Lowrie in the same article quoted previously

"In a time of restricted budgets and a slow economy, the rights of the people to free library service is of paramount concern to everyone at local, state and national levels. Unfortunately, this right does not always attain the priority level it should. As a result, all persons suffer regardless of age, sex, ethnic, economic or social background. The time has come for an upsurge of support of one of the basic freedoms of our democracy -the freedom to ask questions and to be guaranteed the opportunity to search for the answer without restrictions in any form. It is to this end that the Michigan pre-White House Conference. . .is designed."

The second quotation by Dr. John Porter, Superintendent of Public Instruction for Michigan, is taken from a speech to the 300 persons attending the Lansing area conference.

". . .If there are things that we have not done at the state level in order to enhance the role of libraries as an integral part of the cultural enrichment and educational process for all of our citizens, then we'll pledge to move forward."

Enjoying the Monday night reception are Dr. John Porter, State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Dale Pretzer, Program Officer, State Library.

Dr. Jean Lowrie chairing the Tuesday morning introductory session.

## To Begin With—
## A Night of Fun
## The Reception Monday evening, March 26

Converging on the capitol were 230 delegates (144 lay persons and 86 library related), observers and committees from all parts of the state, and they included the hitchhiker from Ontonagon and others from the Upper Peninsula who battled the 24" snow storm: March 25!

Many came full of enthusiasm. Some came with suspicions that the conference planners had already predetermined the results of discussions. The ability of the chair to sense and assuage these fears, the warmth and genuine earnestness of the group as a whole, and the inspirational keynote address established a climate of good will and a very positive tone.

Friends of the Lansing Public Library, with funds presented by the Frank E. Gannett Newspaper Foundation and Suits News Company, sponsored a pre-conference reception at Long's Banquet Convention Center on Monday evening, March 26, so that delegates and alternates could mix informally and be introduced to the conference chairperson, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Librarian and other committees. The State Librarian, Francis X. Scannell, presided at the short formal segment, during which he read Michigan Senate Resolution No. 91 commemorating the Michigan White House Conference.

Delegates and alternates were registered at this time, and name badges and packets of information were given before entering. Several delegates nominated themselves for inclusion on the ballot for representatives to the National Conference.

Pianist John Smith, Artistic Director for the Arts at Lansing Community College, provided background entertainment. Caucuses, politicking by delegates wanting desperately to go to Washington, D.C., and general mixing, the signs augured lively, intelligent, provocative encounters for the sessions.

It was a successful evening, in spite of Michigan State University's basketball team serving as a rival for attention. (The bartender brought a television set!)

Local arrangement co-chairperson Jean Frazier (lay delegate-at-large) and her committee of local lay people created a fine festive atmosphere for the two-day conference.

John Smith (Lansing Community College) adding his talents.

Professor Joseph Druse, Co-Chairperson of the Program Committee, chats with Phyllis Maner, who was in charge of the reception

Mary Houghton, State Library, answers all the questions she can.

Kenneth King, Raymond Mahoney, and Francis X. Scannell, State Librarian (spotting the camera)

## People on the Platform
## Tuesday, March 27

Dr. Jean Lowrie, chairperson of the Michigan White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services, convened the conferees, welcomed the assembly, introduced guests, and read Governor Milliken's Executive Declaration in observance of the Michigan White House Conference.

The following individuals made appropriate comments:

The Honorable William G. Milliken, Governor

Roberta Stanley, representing the Honorable William D. Ford, 19th Congressional District of Michigan

Francis X. Scannell, State Librarian

Marilyn Gell, Head of the National White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services

Other introductions included:

Ruby Woods Robinson, National Commission on Libraries and Information Science

Andrew Hansen, American Library Association

Heather Nicoll, Liaison White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services

Barbara Ort-Smith, Associate Superintendent, Michigan Department of Education, Bureau of Libraries and Adult Extended Learning

### Legislative Tribute

The Honorable Deborah Stabenow, Rep. 58th District, co-chairperson of the Capitol Commission, presented a special tribute which was signed by Governor William G. Milliken, Michael O'Brien, State Senator - Sixth District (co-chairperson), William Faust, State Senator - Thirteenth District and Majority Leader and Bobby Crim, State Representative - Eighty-Second District and Speaker of the House.

### Keynote Speaker

Alice Ihrig, Director Civic and Cultural Programs, Moraine Valley Community College - Member -Planning Committee National White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services

Setting the tone for the two days, Alice Ihrig challenged her audience to work, to create worthwhile resolutions that would effect change and establish future directions for libraries in Michigan.

Obviously, those attending loved libraries, but she suggested that they forget this and view libraries and needs dispassionately, put away prejudices, so that a variety of ideas could be considered. Mrs. Ihrig recommended that all involved leave the conference prepared to communicate the results to legislators, to officials and others throughout the state.

The cooperative elements that went into the organization of the conference should continue and grow.

The image of librarians, she remarked, now needs to be a forceful one and librarians and lay persons should point to the important role they play in the community.

The keynote speech, according to comments to organizers and in the evaluations, was inspirational to lay persons and librarians. It was an upbeat theme that carried the delegates through the rest of the conference.

Dr. Jean Lowrie accepts the legislature's Special Tribute to the Michigan Conference from Rep. Deborah Stabenow.

Alice Ihrig discusses libraries with a student and Heather Nicoll, National Conference liaison.

Evening speaker Heywood Hale Broun

**Remarks by Gov. William G. Milliken**
**Michigan White House Conference**
**on Libraries and Information Services**

**Lansing Civic Center**
**Tuesday, March 27, 1979 - 9:00 a.m.**

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It is a pleasure for me to be here this morning to welcome you to Michigan's White House Conference on Libraries.

I am confident this will prove to be a very informative and rewarding conference. This meeting is the result of almost two years of planning and follows 21 regional library meetings around Michigan.

You will be addressing issues which will have a very profound effect on the direction which our libraries in Michigan take in the 21st century. Topics such as the library and the community, removing roadblocks to library use, what role libraries should play and funding of libraries are keys to the definition of your future.

Michigan has a long record of having a strong, active library system. We were the first state to make provisions for public libraries in our constitution and we were among the first in the nation to pass a state aid law for public libraries.

Our college and university libraries, our school libraries, our special libraries and our state library here in Lansing are among the finest in the nation.

The libraries of this state have a clear and definite role to play in our fight against illiteracy. You must further develop adult education programs, programs for youths who have quit school and programs for the cultural enrichment of our general population.

It is tragic that not more than 20 percent of our population actually uses the valuable resources to be found in our libraries. Libraries are perhaps our greatest underutilized resource.

I am proud to say that I have been highly supportive of this state's library system during my years in Lansing. As a State Senator I sponsored the original library systems act, Public Act 286 of 1965. That support has continued and I was pleased to be able to sign in 1977 legislation establishing a new regional library system for Michigan and setting up a new formula for funding of our public libraries.

The value of libraries to our society has been stated in a number of eloquent ways. One of the most concise was the statement of the historian James Thomas Flexner.

"If all other institutions were destroyed except libraries," he wrote, "all could be recreated, but if the libraries were destroyed, all other institutions could not recreate them."

I wish you a most successful conference.

## Group Discussions—
## The Work Begins

Tuesday, March 27
10:45-12 noon
2:00-5:00 p.m.
8:30-10:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 28
8:30-10:00 a.m.

In the development of the conference, group discussions were considered pivotal. It was essential to have worthwhile discussions that sustained the interest of the delegates, achieved resolutions that mirrored the Michigan scene, and fostered a long lasting concern for libraries.

Without pushing or prodding, the delegates attended their group discussions, conscientiously listening and contributing throughout the sessions. In general, the materials mailed earlier (issues, background papers, position papers) had been read, and individuals brought particular concerns of their areas with them to Lansing.

Assigned to groups with seven lay and three library-related delegates, the group leaders and recorders seemed highly successful in creating rapport. They also managed to maintain continuous flow of discussion without allowing too many "authoritative" individuals to take over the sessions.

The group leaders and recorders selected represented all types of libraries, trustees and lay leaders.

It should be noted that over 250 resolutions emanated from the 25 groups, and, from the evaluation, it would seem that interaction was appreciated.

Group 16, lead by Lucy Ainsley keeps on schedule

Robert Gieman leads Group 24.

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## Observers' Speakout— An Extra Chance To Be Heard Tuesday Evening, March 27

Led by the State PTA representative serving on the Executive Committee, this session enabled observers and alternates to speak out concerning issues they considered important, and these were presented to the Resolutions Committee for incorporation if the particular problem had not been addressed. The Committee discovered in all cases that the issues had been written up in resolution form by one of the small groups.

Even though alternates were allowed to comment at the small group sessions if granted permission, this speakout seemed to lessen their frustrations at not being delegates with full voice, or observers who could only sit silently.

Only one individual tried to use it as a forum for electioneering.

Mary Brand, Executive Committee, leads the discussion

Spirited opinions were presented

# Election of Delegates to the National Conference

Election of delegates to the national conference was scheduled on Wednesday, March 28, 1979 between 10:00-10:45 a.m.

The politiking initiated at the pre-conference gained momentum, and the candidates were introduced informally at the first luncheon session. Electioneering materials were distributed as well as posted.

## Procedures

The election committee, headed by a State Library consultant, arranged to deliver envelopes of ballots to each of the 25 group leaders, who signed for the envelope and distributed the ballots to each delegate.

At this point observers and alternates were asked to leave so that the delegates could vote privately. In cases of spoiled ballots, delegates could have replacements by surrendering the spoiled ballots.

## Collection

Ballots were collected and tallied by the Elections Committee, and the results were delivered to the Conference Chairperson to be announced at the close of the final meeting.

## An Election Problem

In the pre-conference period, delegates were given the opportunity of nominating themselves as candidates for the national conference, and their names and optional statements were forwarded to all delegates and alternates.

There was time allotted at the conference on Tuesday morning for others to nominate themselves. In the flurry of combining names of the old and new candidates, two individuals were inadvertently left off the ballot.

This was remedied by announcing as the first item of business at the Action Session that a new election for Groups IV and V would be held at 12 noon. This announcement was repeated during the session, and at 12 noon delegates participated in a new election for these two areas.

The names of elected delegates are included later in this report.

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## Action Session— Working Together Wednesday morning and afternoon, March 28

Resolutions were the items of business for the Action Session after the election was held and Standing Rules were adopted.

Chaired by Dr. Jean E. Lowrie, with Parliamentarian John H. Veltema participating, the sessions revealed that delegates, alternates and observers were intent upon the discussions, still seemed upbeat and enthusiastic, and were obviously carrying out Alice Ihrig's admonition to work hard.

Transparencies for all resolutions were placed on an overhead projector as the resolution was being read by one of those resolution committee members so in need of sleep. Amendments were also projected.

There were reactions voiced at the microphones by lay delegates—from the high school student to the 80 year old, from the elected officials, the housewife, the teacher, the writer, etc. Librarians spoke to issues but did not generally dominate.

Votes on resolutions or amendments that could not be determined by the chairperson, were handled by the election committee chairperson and librarians from a five county area not already involved in other committees. They counted the votes, tallied and gave the vote to the chairperson.

67 resolutions plus 1 extra were acted upon during this afternoon session. (The resolutions committee had condensed the 250 resolutions to that number). At a suggestion by a delegate, as the time loomed closer to adjournment, that voting on the ten remaining resolutions be done by mail, reaction by delegates was a resounding "no". They requested that adjournment be posted later than the assigned hour.

So despite the weariness of the delegates after a strenuous two days and a half, they still understood the meaning of the conference.

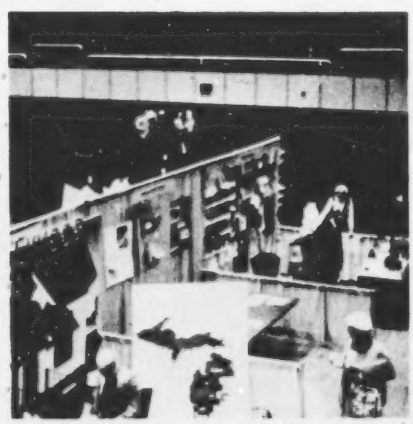
Ruby Woods Robinson, of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, joins the discussion.

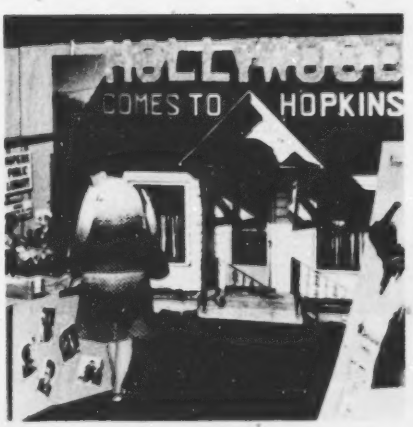
## Displays and Demonstrations— Everything You Wanted to Know

Planning for the conference, the Executive Committee considered the displays and demonstrations of primary importance in sharing information with the delegates concomitant to the position papers and their group discussions.

The executive secretary of MAME (Michigan Association for Media in Education) and Library Media Consultant, University of Michigan Bureau of School Services (all the same individual), organized 24 booths that supported the six issue categories: Public Relations, Networks and Resource Sharing, Access-Barrier, Technology, Outreach, Funding and the Political System.

Services for the Hearing Impaired.





## Special Conference Notes

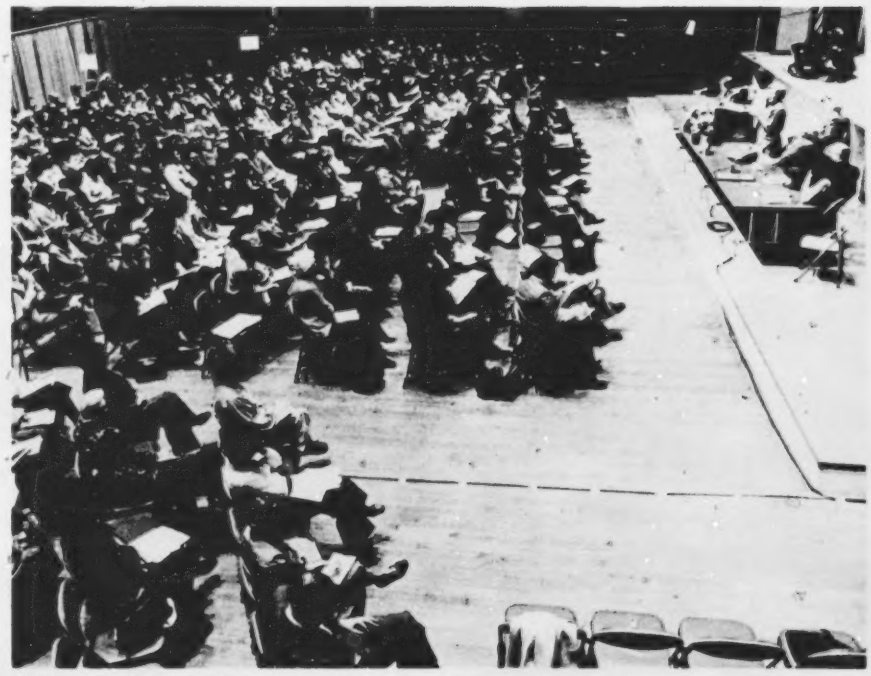
**1. Signers:**
Four talented persons were involved throughout the two and one half days in interpreting for the hearing impaired delegates during group discussions, action sessions and at the informal breaks.

**2. Braille and Cassette Tapes: Visually handicapped**
The program was made available in Braille and Cassette tapes (just as the position and background papers were). In additon, the volunteers assisted the visually handicapped in the group discussions when the individuals were concerned with rankings of resolutions and election of delegates.

**3. Library School Students**
Important to the organization were the library school students from Western Michigan University and the University of Michigan, with their lively, indefatigable spirits and genuine interest. Due to their presence, three newsletters detailing news of the conference were published; the conferees had the benefit of guides directing them to rooms, they served as procedural monitors, assisted committees, and also had time to listen and observe. Alice Ihrig spent moments with many, discussing librarianship, needs, etc.

**4. Resource Persons**
Specially designated librarians were available at the conference to answer questions relating to the issues.

Voting on resolutions



Always careful attention.

# Your Delegates and Alternates to Washington

**Note:** Lay delegates are listed first according to the region they represent. Lay alternates follow directly after the lay delegates and are arranged in the same manner.

Library-related delegates are placed alphabetically. The two library-related alternates are listed in sequence.

When available, the 100 word statement voluntarily prepared by candidates is included.

## Lay Delegates
## Region I

(1) Mrs. Viola Brown
Houghton, Michigan

Crafts and Recreation Director
Special Interests:
Hancock Home Study Club
League of Women Voters
Peninsula Environmental Coalition
Delta Kappa Gamma, A.A.U.W.

I believe the White House Conference on Libraries should make a difference in our lives. It may show the way by which the very quality of our lives can be affected. It could influence the life of our nation. For I believe our country does need help. We need to change from a consumer nation to a nation using only what is really necessary and finding enjoyment in pleasures of the spirit. I believe that library service can be one means by which such change can be brought about. The elderly can avoid apathy; the middle-aged can face change and disruption with equanimity. Youth can explore many options.

(2) Carol Linderoth
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

College Freshman
Special Interests:
Red Cross Volunteer
Volunteer at Retarded Children's Home and Camp

The White House Conference interests me for several reasons. Since earliest memory, books have been important in my life. At school I enjoyed the challenge of introducing others to the joys of reading. When babysitting, I discovered that children chose storybooks over television, and as a Red Cross Volunteer found elderly people in long-term care loved being read to. These past two summers I helped organize book sessions as a counselor at a camp for physically and mentally handicapped children. It is a privilege to participate in the Michigan Conferences, and I would consider it an honor to share ideas at the (National) White House Conference.

## Region II

(1) H. Ashley Weeks
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Professor, retired
Legally blind

I have been interested in books and libraries most of my life. As a Professor of Sociology, I have expected my students to use libraries extensively. Soon after coming to the University of Michigan, I joined the Great Books group and after a year became a leader of the group. . .Since my eyesight has failed, I have become increasingly interested in the services to the blind. I am very much impressed with what is being done to make it possible for persons of limited vision to keep up with what is going on in the world as well as with literature of all kinds. I hope to be able to make some suggestions which, in my opinion, would make these programs even more helpful.

(2) Anthony Martinez
Saginaw, Michigan
Teacher
Special Interest:
American G.I. Forum

It has been my opinion based on my uses of the high school, college, and public libraries of my region for the most part, that the Hispanic population appears to be conspicuous by their absence when one visits these various libraries. This I feel must be corrected in some way, if not in some part. Possible reasons that can be looked into may be that the Hispanic population is unaware of the many benefits and services of the libraries, or feel that they are restricted to one (local) library. . .I feel that the White House conference is definitely in a position to offer some solution to the particular situation.

## Region III

(1) Jean Frazier
Lansing, Michigan
Writer

. . .I believe that this country's greatest waste is its human resources and that a White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services is another step toward stopping this waste. (And) I believe that intelligence is our greatest possession. It is the responsibility of each person to expand his/her intelligence to the utmost and to guide and encourage all humans to do the same. As a person develops his/her intellectual potential and encourages others to do the same, particularly children, the need to expand resources grows. Libraries should be a dependable resource. I believe that libraries are extensions of our rooms for living. . .

(2) Jeannine Rebentisch
Coldwater, Michigan
Director Reading Center,
Coldwater Schools

As a Reading Consultant, I am aware of books and media and their impact on the lives of all of our citizens. With increased longevity, greater amounts of leisure time, and the knowledge explosion, these can be exciting times for libraries. More than ever, this valuable resource must continue to creatively marshall its forces and meet the needs of today and the fast approaching 21st century. With tight budgets a certainty, this White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services must explore ways to creatively expand services. I want to be part of the energy that makes it happen.

## Region IV

(1) C. Arnold Carlson
Birmingham, Michigan
C.P.A., retired
Real Estate

I am most interested in being a delegate to the National Conference, as I have a definite interest in our libraries and their services to the American people at all levels, local, state and national. My work experience has been in the profession of public accounting, with most of my practice as a C.P.A. being spent in Detroit. I retired in June, 1977 and became involved in real estate. I have been active in various community activities, including Girl Scouts, Optimist Club and the Friends of the Bloomfield Township Public Library.

(2) Ms. Del Becker
Mt. Clemens, Michigan
Registered Nurse
Special Interests: Macomb Arts Council

The library has always been a very important place of resource to me and my family. I would like to see that everyone in our community becomes aware of the vast amount of materials available to them for use. I would like to see that libraries make these resources available without making people feel intimidated if they don't know how to use the facilities. I would like to see more cooperation and sharing between libraries, whether they are local, county, state, or federal. Because I am very community-minded and have worked in many organizations at many levels, I'd bring a wide range of experience and insight to the Conference.

## Region V

(1) Irwin Toby Holtzman
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
Partner, Building firm
Special Interests:
Builder's Association
Friends of the Library

(2) Snow F. Grigsby
Detroit, Michigan
Retired

The future of our country greatly depends on our young people, and the **quality** of the education they are receiving. A library is certainly a treasured key that unlocks a wealth of knowledge. This knowledge should be evenly distributed to the affluent as well as the poor. Without a well equipped library in the present and in the future, this will create a negative impact on the learning process. We find many of our libraries are being shortchanged in the distribution of Federal funds. Urban libraries have shown the strains of "benign neglect" in terms of equal allocations.

(3) Deborah Tucker
Detroit, Michigan
Represents Latino Outreach
Community Service Center

I became acutely aware, during the Detroit area conference, of the lack of participation on the part of young people in such activities as these library conferences. We must strive to keep communication gaps closed between older people and the youth of America. I feel as a young adult, with interests in the education of young people, especially minorities, and with the gift of versatility I have been blessed with, I would be a good candidate to attend the National Library White House Conference.

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## Lay Alternates

### Region I

Katherine MacKenzie
Holland, Michigan
Special Interests:
Retail Merchant
League of Women Voters
AAUW
Chamber of Commerce

The day is fast approaching when prohibitive costs will force closer cooperation among libraries of different types and in different locations. Advanced technology should make this possible. At the same time, I believe all types of libraries should maintain a one-to-one relationship between patrons and professional personnel. I see the state and national White House Conferences as the beginning of a public program aimed at selling all types of libraries and library services to the public. My desire to be a national delegate stems from the fact that I have a quick mind, am a good decision maker, and understand at least some current library problems.

### Region II

Judith Schroeder
Grand Blanc, Michigan
Energy Management Representative, Consumers Power

For 27 years now I have found books and libraries to be a very important part of my life. I cannot imagine the world without an open library for all people and for all the various interests in the world. Yet this may happen if the concerned citizens do not express their needs and concerns for the future to those in authority in all levels of government. . .I feel that I can represent a large segment of today's population at this conference, because I am fairly representative of an increasing number of women. These women are involved inside and outside of their homes, communities, and seeking advanced education—either for work advancement or for pleasure or more knowledge.

### Region III

Betty Irgens
Plainwell, Michigan
Hearing Impaired

As a deaf person. . .I have always regarded the library merely as a place to check out books and to read magazines for which I couldn't afford to subscribe. I was aware that the library conducted programs, but naturally considered them unattendable by a deaf person. However, in the past year at least one library has seen fit to make its programs accessable to the deaf through interpreters, and it has opened a whole new world. The only problem is that the library has no regular funds for interpreter services. . .I believe that libraries should budget funds for interpreter service for the deaf the same way they budget funds for large print books and cassettes for the blind.

### Region IV

Clydell Jones
Pontiac, Michigan
Teacher

Special Interests:
Urban League
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

### Region V

Diana Deresz
Detroit, Michigan
Social Worker, retired

As a citizen, wife, mother, social worker. . .I believe that our schools, churches, libraries and many other institutions not only should provide education, services, or spiritual fulfillment, but should above all give us KNOWLEDGE. I truly feel that knowledge is something we (the people, regardless of age, color or creed) can't get enough of. The library should be a place where people find TRUST. It should always have an open mind to the public, with understanding to their needs. America and Americans are a nation of readers, and we as delegates shall be of help to have it remain so. . .a library is an instrument of lifelong learning.

## Library-Related Delegates

(1) Thomas Alford
Macomb County Library

Represents Public Libraries

The pendulum of public interest and attention in recent years has swung sharply to emerging developments in libraries and information centers, and to new milestones in media centers. Interest in the nation's library and information situation continues to focus new attention on promising alternatives being examined by librarians, trustees, and friends. The White House conference supports this interest in libraries and should encourage the combining of innovative new techniques with the need to provide basic services at the local and area-wide level and for accountability of the necessary funds.

(2) Robert Gaylor
Oakland University

Represents College and Universities

I believe that I am uniquely qualified to be a delegate to the White House Conference in that, besides being an academic librarian for fifteen years, I have, in addition, been a public library trustee for eight years. As an academic librarian, I have served in various capacities, from Reference Librarian to Acting Director of the library. As trustee, I served six years as Treasurer (during which time a million dollar bond issue was passed) and two years as President. My personal philosophy of librarianship is that of service, and my committment is to provide to all library users the very best assistance that I can provide.

(3) Dr. Jean Lowrie
Chairperson, Michigan White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services

Represents Library Educators

(4) M. Elizabeth Moore
Michigan Bell Telephone Company

Represents Special Libraries

I pledge to represent the citizens of Michigan by 1) listening carefully to all points of view, 2) keeping informed through reading, 3) presenting the library view as needed, 4) assisting in the preparation of recommendations as a result of our discussions. Because I have had experience as a special, college, university and public librarian, I am confident that I can communicate effectively the concerns and recommendations of Michigan citizens at the White House Conference, November 1979.

(5) Joann Wilcox
Former president
Michigan Library Association

Represents Trustees and Others

Libraries are the holders of all knowledge, past, present and future. The public has the right to this knowledge whether poor or rich, handicapped or not, any person of any race, educated or uneducated, to improve themselves and the world around them. Libraries must find ways to disseminate this knowledge. As a library trustee, officer, legislative chairperson and president of the Michigan Library Association, I've met several people, always listening to ideas. Since my husband is involved in politics, I've knowledge of how to work with politicians who control money that libraries need to reach the goals set by the conference.

## Library-Related Alternates

(1) Shirley Clark
Library Media Specialist
Detroit Public Schools

Represents School Libraries

(2) Francis X. Scannell
State Librarian

# Issues and Recommendations

## Identifying Issues

**1. Background**

Issues discussed at the Michigan White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services were identified by lay persons and librarians attending the 21 area meetings scheduled March-April-June, 1978. Each of the groups noted problems and concerns on a local/regional, state and/or national basis.

**2. Perspective on the Issues**

The Issues Committee examined the reports and established commonalities, threads that were repeated throughout the 21 areas. These were placed in six broad categories:

a. Financing of libraries
b. Public relations
c. Barriers - Access to libraries
d. Outreach - Service to groups
e. Networking - Library cooperation
f. Technology

In a two-pronged plan, the committee assigned experts to write position papers regarding the six topics and evaluators to critique these.

A librarian in consultation with lay persons studied the 21 area reports to prepare Issues for Discussion, a dejargonized approach to the problems. The questions under the framework of the six concept categories were examined after this study, and suggestions were offered by the Executive and Steering Committees.

The Position Papers, Issues for Discussion and background papers written by academic, school, law, special libraries and library educators were forwarded to delegates and alternates for study.

**3. Resolutions — Conference Organization**

The 25 discussion groups, composed of 7 lay delegates and 3 library-related delegates, met and considered the issues. Resolutions were suggested, prepared and presented to the resolutions committee throughout the first day.

Group recorders were supplied with resolution forms to be filled out in duplicate and numbered sequentially. They were also to check the topic(s) addressed.

Deadline for all resolutions was 11:00 p.m. on Tuesday evening. At that point, the resolutions committee changed locations from the Civic Center to the State Library.

During the next few hours, State Library typists prepared resolution masters. As the committee authorized them, staff made transparencies and photocopied 25 sets of 67 resolutions.

At 3:30 a.m. a State Library messenger traveled to a state rapid copy center so that 400 plus copies of each of 67 resolutions could be run.

These were returned to the State Library for collating, and State Library staff then delivered the finished sets by 8:15 a.m. on Wednesday to the Civic Center in time for the ranking and action sessions.

**4. Ranking the Resolutions**

Each of the individuals in the 25 groups ranked the resolutions. The rankings were tallied by the recorders and presented to the resolutions committee, and they in turn established the ranking by a mathematical formula.

Each delegate, alternate and observer was provided with a full set of resolutions for the action session.

## Issues (Resolutions)

The following resolutions were presented during the Action Sessions of the Michigan White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services and are listed according to topics and issues identified in the Issues for Discussion. Within issue groupings, resolutions are listed according to numerical ranking derived by delegate vote.

## Topic I: Finance

**The availability of quality libraries. . .depends on the amount of money that libraries receive. . .**

**What are the sources of funding?**

**Issue #1**

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the State of Michigan, recognizing that library service is vital to its citizens, requires the establishment and support of public libraries for all residents and Public Act 89 of 1977 was passed to improve library funding and services on a local and regional level.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Michigan White House Conference urge the State Legislature to fully fund Public Act 89 in fiscal year 1979/80 and every year thereafter.

**Issue #2**

WHEREAS, Local libraries are supported primarily from local funds,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that federal and state programs be accompanied by adequate federal and state funds.

**Issue #3**

WHEREAS, General funds intended to encourage development of library services at the local levels are presently used to support the State Library.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the state should totally fund state library services and administration from its general fund, and all LSCA monies should be distributed to public libraries or cooperatives.

**Issue #4**

WHEREAS, Library buildings erected before the 1968 Architectural Barriers Act are difficult for handicapped citizens and senior citizens to use, preventing them from utilizing library materials and services,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that federal government funds be designated for the remodeling of such facilities; and, where such buildings cannot be made barrier free, for the development of materials and information delivery systems which will meet the needs of handicapped citizens, senior citizens and those with special needs,

NOW THEREFORE, be it further resolved, that the federal government restore funding to Title II of LSCA for library construction,

NOW THEREFORE, be it further resolved, that state funds be made available for construction and renovation of library buildings.

**Issue #5**

WHEREAS, Information technology such as computers and electronic data processing are advancing at a tremendous pace with possible solutions to library problems,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that

A. The federal government should support and fund research projects in the use of libraries to provide citizen access to automated information systems,

B. A government program should be instituted to publicize the advantages of an intelligently planned and programmed information technology, with attention being paid to its opportunities as well as its problems, such as training of library personnel in use of computers and safeguarding individual privacy,

C. Federal, state and local government guarantee equal citizen access to information technology,

D. Information technology be applied to storage, bibliographic identification, location, retrieval and transmission of information, to facilitate sharing of resources.

**Issue #6**

WHEREAS, Approximately 90% of eligible blind and physically handicapped state residents are presently unserved due to a lack of adequate financial support,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the network of libraries serving the blind and physically handicapped, as part of the Library of Congress program, receive an annual per capita grant per active qualified borrower, over and above a basic grant from the state.

**Issue #7**

WHEREAS, The level of library service varies widely throughout the State of Michigan,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that this conference support the concept of universal library service and request local, state and federal funding to assure equilateral support to all libraries.

**Issue #8**

WHEREAS, Providing funding for expansion and development of new library service and innovative programs is an ongoing challenge of libraries,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that greater efforts be made to secure funds from private sources such as foundations, local service clubs, memorials, etc.

**Issue #9**

WHEREAS, The State of Michigan through LSCA I is spending approximately $300,000 annually to rent the present facility for the State Library,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the function of the State Library be re-examined in view of future needs and technological advances in determining the design and equipping of a new building.

**Issue #10**

WHEREAS, Existing Indian library and information service are incapable of encouraging or supporting creative writing among Indian people and are completely lacking in the means for local publishing efforts or the preservation of oral or written histories specific to their tribes,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that several specific agencies concerned with the cultural life of American Indian people, including the Smithsonian Institution, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts and others be asked to make special short-term provisions (over the next decade) for intensive funding to preserve and to maintain aspects of Indian life, language, tradition, and heritage which may otherwise, with the passage of time, be lost forever.

**Issue #11**

WHEREAS, The rising costs of periodical literature have caused libraries across the country to drastically reduce their periodical holding, thereby depriving the scholarly community of essential information,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the National Periodical Center as proposed by the Council on Library Resources be implemented with full federal funding.

**Issue #12**

WHEREAS, Library cultural, and information resources at a compensatory level are urgently needed by American Indians and Alaska native peoples living on or near reservations; and

WHEREAS, There is at the present time no funding in any agency dedicated to development or operation of library systems in Indian country,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that Congress be asked to enact an Indian library bill to be administered by the Department of the Interior to include funds for constructing libraries and developing library systems in and near reservations and to support Indian studies programs in institutions of higher education.

NOW THEREFORE, be it further resolved, that a national Indian library center be established within the Department of the Interior to provide services and information for the benefit of the Indian population with regard to health, social services, economic development, job training and other services, with specific appropriation for funding apart from elementary and secondary education programs.

**Issue #13**

WHEREAS, Large areas of Michigan are presently inadequately served by libraries and information services,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that federally funded demonstration libraries, possibly modeled on the program established in Washington state, be set up in selected isolated

areas to operate for a minimum of three years. Libraries would then be turned over to local governmental units and area library cooperatives to fund and to operate if the citizens of the areas wish to retain them. At that time, if continued service is desired, local governmental units would assume funding and control.

### How should the funding be allocated?

**Issue #1**

WHEREAS, Every child has the right to read and the right to access to a variety of materials in many media formats,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that funds - federal, state and local -be provided in order that each elementary, middle and secondary school has a properly stocked library/media center, staffed by a professionally trained librarian.

**Issue #2**

WHEREAS, A more comprehensive access to all resources of all libraries of the state would benefit the citizens of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Computerized means are available to us to create and share information among libraries and regions in the state,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that funding be made available so that the State Library in association with the Michigan Library Consortium and other state library agencies build and share a bibliographic database of the holdings of the libraries of Michigan.

**Issue #3**

WHEREAS, We are increasingly aware as a nation of the importance of the preservation of local and special libraries,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that funding and resources be provided for historical and archival libraries and museums.

**Issue #4**

WHEREAS, There is current state legislation pending whereby penal fines which are currently funding public libraries would be reallocated for the funding of law libraries,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that no monies now appropriated to public libraries be reallocated.

**Issue #5**

WHEREAS, The Regional Educational Media Centers (REMC's) have provided expensive but essential services to local school districts which they could not otherwise afford; and

WHEREAS, Budget cuts may eliminate state Regional Educational Media Center (REMC) support,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that Regional Educational Media Centers (REMC's) support be continued.

**Issue #6**

WHEREAS, Title IVB, ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) enables appropriation of funds to purchase materials and equipment for school libraries,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that funding of this title be increased, and that a larger portion of the funding be earmarked for school libraries.

**Issue #7**

WHEREAS, Library service means people providing people with information,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that new sources of library funding be directed toward improvement of library personnel in order that existing facilities and resources are used to full advantage.

**Issue #8**

WHEREAS, Barrier-free design as a rule provides ramps for wheelchair users and equipment for the blind and other considerations for handicapped people and deafness is an invisible handicap which causes the deaf person to be overlooked,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that qualified interpreters for the deaf be provided for all library programs and services and that funds be allocated for these services.

**Issue #9**

WHEREAS, Public libraries provide vital information services for all citizens,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that public libraries be made a mandated local service, e.g., police and fire departments, with an adequate level of fiscal support to meet, at least, minimum library standards for their service area.

## Topic II: Barriers

### Removing Roadblocks to Library Use

### What physical features create barriers?

**Issue #1**

WHEREAS, Library buildings erected before the 1968 Architectural Barriers Act are difficult for handicapped citizens and senior citizens to use, preventing them from utilizing library materials and services,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that federal government funds be designated for the remodeling of such facilities; and, where such buildings cannot be made barrier free, for the development of materials and information delivery systems which will meet the needs of handicapped citizens, senior citizens and those with special needs.

NOW THEREFORE, be it further resolved, that the federal government restore funding to Title II of LSCA for library construction.

NOW THEREFORE, be it further resolved, that state funds be made available for construction and renovation of library buildings.

### How available are libraries in Michigan?

**Issue #1**

WHEREAS, Various roadblocks, often resulting from politically established boundaries such as those of cities, counties, villages and townships, impede many potential library patrons from using such libraries,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that such roadblocks be regularly examined and, whenever possible, removed.

**Issue #2**

WHEREAS, The problem of difficult and oftentimes unavailable transportation directly hinders the use and enjoyment of libraries, for certain groups, i.e., the young, the aged, the handicapped,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that libraries work diligently with community leaders to develop and improve regularly scheduled transportation systems; to provide specialized transportation for those with special needs; thus assuring that all citizens of the community have access to the library facilities.

**Issue #3**

WHEREAS, Large areas of Michigan are presently inadequately served by libraries and information services,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that federally funded demonstration libraries, possibly modeled on the program established in Washington state, be set up in selected isolated areas to operate for a minimum of three years. Libraries would then be turned over to local governmental units and area library cooperatives to fund and to operate if the citizens of the areas wish to retain them. At that time, if continued service is desired, local governmental units would assume funding and control.

**Issue #4**

WHEREAS, The term "on or near reservations" with regard to the location of libraries does not specifically designate a location,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the solicitor of the United States Department of the Interior be requested to render an opinion on the definition of the term "on or near reservations" with regard to location of libraries.

## Should services be improved?

**Issue #1**

WHEREAS, The resolutions enacted by the Michigan White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services are important to the State of Michigan,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that an advisory committee on Michigan libraries be formed from this body of professionals and lay persons, to aid the Governor and legislators in implementing these resolutions.

**Issue #2**

WHEREAS, The resolutions enacted at the Michigan White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services are important to the citizens of the State of Michigan,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that delegates of this conference be encouraged to form community action groups made up of interested citizens and members of library related organizations to help implement these resolutions,

NOW THEREFORE, be it further resolved, that the State Library is charged with providing all delegates and alternates with:
1) Final state resolutions from this conference
2) Information concerning follow-up actions by the state on these resolutions,
3) The resolutions and follow-up actions from the National Conference.

**Issue #3**

WHEREAS, Improving library service is a useful concept only insofar as library personnel are well educated,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that certification criteria be re-examined and upgraded by an appropriate agency.

NOW THEREFORE, be it further resolved, that library staff at every level be committed to involvement in continuing education, especially:
A. Current technological developments,
B. Public service techniques,
C. Appreciation and respect for the individual needs of all library users.

**Issue #4**

WHEREAS, Libraries need to be open at the most convenient times for the majority of citizens,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that libraries be encouraged to explore the use of flex-time in order to serve their specific communities.

**Issue #5**

WHEREAS, Approximately 90% of eligible blind and physically handicapped state residents are presently unserved due to a lack of adequate financial support,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the network of libraries serving the blind and physically handicapped, as part of the Library of Congress program, receive an annual per capita grant per active qualified borrower, over and above a basic grant from the state.

**Issue #6**

WHEREAS, Library service means people providing people with information,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that new sources of library funding be directed toward improvement of library personnel in order that existing facilities and resources are used to full advantage.

**Issue #7**

WHEREAS, The rising costs of periodical literature have caused libraries across the country to drastically reduce their periodical holdings, thereby depriving the scholarly community of essential information,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the National Periodical Center as proposed by the Council on Library Resources be implemented with full federal funding.

**Issue #8**

WHEREAS, Barrier-free design as a rule provides ramps for wheelchair users and equipment for the blind and other considerations for handicapped people and deafness is an invisible handicap which causes the deaf person to be overlooked,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that qualified interpreters for the deaf be provided for all library programs and services and that funds be allocated for these services.

**Issue #9**

WHEREAS, Public libraries provide vital information services for all citizens,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that public libraries be made a mandated local service, e.g., police and fire department, with an adequate level of fiscal support to meet, at least, minimum library standards for their service area.

**Issue #10**

WHEREAS, It has been established that there is at present no criterion or standard applied to library services for Indians and no formal means of communication among organizations interested in or actually providing library, media or information services, governmental or non-governmental at the national, regional, state or reservation levels to encourage cooperaton in the delivery of information services.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that an Indian library consortium be established consisting of those organizations interested in or providing library/media/information services to Indian people on reservations and sponsor the formation of an Indian library association which could develop standards for Indian libraries, and

that initiatives in this direction be undertaken as a part of the White House Pre-Conference follow-up.

## Topic III: Outreach

### Traditionally libraries have provided informational or recreational reading materials to patrons. . .

### What services are recommended?

**Issue #1**

WHEREAS, The dissemination of information is of crucial importance in a democracy, and some groups of citizens have needs which are not being adequately met,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that public libraries identify such groups and implement outreach programs utilizing all library materials and services.

**Issue #2**

WHEREAS, An informed citizenry is the basis of our democratic society and the cost of services may become a roadblock to access of information,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that library service and materials should be guaranteed for all citizens.

**Issue #3**

WHEREAS, The level of library service varies widely throughout the State of Michigan,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that this conference support the concept of universal library service and request local, state and federal funding to assure equilateral support to all libraries.

**Issue #4**

WHEREAS, Parents need and request assistance in providing good pre-reading experiences for their very young children,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that public librarians, specially trained in early childhood education, provide enrichment programs for pre-schoolers and guidance in early childhood education for their parents.

**Issue #5**

WHEREAS, Existing Indian library and information services are incapable of encouraging or supporting creative writing among Indian people and are completely lacking in the means for local publishing efforts or the preservation of oral or written histories specific to their tribes,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that several specific agencies concerned with the cultural life of American Indian people, including the Smithsonian Institution, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts and others be asked to make special short-term provisions (over the next decade) for intensive funding to preserve and to maintain aspects of Indian life, language, tradition, and heritage which may otherwise, with the passage of time, be lost forever.

**Issue #6**

WHEREAS, Large areas of Michigan are presently inadequately served by libraries and information services,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that federally funded demonstration libraries, possibly modeled on the program established in Washington state, be set up in selected isolated areas to operate for a minimum of three years. Libraries would then be turned over to local governmental units and area library cooperatives to fund and to operate if the citizens of the areas wish to retain them. At that time, if continued service is desired, local governmental units would assume funding and control.

### Should there be Resource Centers?

**Issue #1**

WHEREAS, The Regional Educational Media Centers (REMC's) have provided expensive but essential services to local school districts which they could not otherwise afford; and

WHEREAS, Budget cuts may eliminate state Regional Educational Media Center (REMC) support,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that Regional Educational Media Centers (REMC's) support be continued.

**Issue #2**

WHEREAS, The rising costs of periodical literature have caused libraries across the country to drastically reduce their periodical holdings, thereby depriving the scholarly community of essential information,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the National Periodical Center as proposed by the Council on Library Resources be implemented with full federal funding.

**Issue #3**

WHEREAS, Library, cultura , and information resources at a compensatory level are urgently needed by American Indians and Alaska native peoples living on or near reservations; and

WHEREAS, There is at present time no funding in any agency dedicated to development or operation of library systems in Indian country,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that Congress be asked to enact an Indian library bill to be administered by the Department of the Interior to include funds for constructing libraries and developing library systems in and near reservations and to support Indian studies programs in institutions of higher education.

NOW THEREFORE, be it further resolved, that a national Indian library center be established within the Department of the Interior to provide services and information for the benefit of the Indian population with regard to health, social services, economic development, job training and other services, with specific appropriation for funding apart from elementary and secondary education programs.

**Issue #4**

WHEREAS, There is need for a central referral service with information on community affairs,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that public libraries should provide staff and/or trained volunteers to act as liaison with community agencies and special groups to collect the information necessary for referral service.

### Should libraries offer educational programs?

**Issue #1**

WHEREAS, Improving library service is a useful concept only insofar as library personnel are well educated,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that certification criteria be re-

examined and upgraded by an appropriate agency.

NOW THEREFORE, be it further resolved, that library staff at every level be committed to involvement in continuing education, especially:
A. Current technological developments,
B. Public service techniques,
C. Appreciation and respect for the individual needs of all library users.

**Issue #2**

WHEREAS, Continuing education will be the way of life for many Americans in the future,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that where appropriate, libraries implement more organized study programs such as CLEP, schools without walls, and external degree programs which give credit for life experience.

## Topic IV: Public Relations

**How can libraries publicize their services so that more people know what's available through libraries. . .**

**Issue #1**

WHEREAS, Fewer than twenty percent of the citizens of Michigan and the nation make use of the many library facilities currently available due to a lack of public awareness; and,

WHEREAS, There is a need to develop an awareness of the full spectrum of library services and to upgrade the image at the library,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that a vigorous public relations program including library instruction, be planned and implemented at local, regional, state and national levels to inform the general public about these currently available services. In the State of Michigan such a program should be planned and implemented under the auspices of the State Library and should include library support groups such as the Friends of the Library.

**Issue #2**

WHEREAS, The public does not always recognize the library as a principal source of information,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that public libraries in the State of Michigan be instructed to add "And Information Services" to their formal titles.

## Topic V: Networking

**Through cooperative efforts with other libraries, and by participation in library networks, your library can expand the materials, services, or programs it can offer. . .**

**What types of networks are recommended?**

**Issue #1**

WHEREAS, The Regional Educational Media Centers (REMC's) have provided expensive but essential services to local school districts which they could not otherwise afford; and

WHEREAS, Budget cuts may eliminate state Regional Educational Media Center (REMC) support,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that Regional Educational Media Centers (REMC's) support be continued.

**Issue #2**

WHEREAS, An increasing demand by the public for legal and other special information resources exists,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that these special library collections be made available to the public through cooperation and networking.

**Issue #3**

WHEREAS, Cooperative patterns among libraries have been changed, and will continue to be, by networking,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Michigan State Library should become the planning and coordinating agency for networking in Michigan.

**Issue #4**

WHEREAS, The Library of Congress provides the leadership and services customarily associated with national libraries,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Michigan White House Conference endorse the recommendation of the national commission on library and information science designating the Library of Congress as the national library.

**Issue #5**

WHEREAS, While the nation and the various states are comprised of diverse communities, an increasing number of individual libraries are moving toward group, network and consortium arrangements,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that provided agreed on minimum standards are met, the right and duty of libraries to set and achieve their own goals and to define and meet their own needs, should be guaranteed, and the autonomy and/or integrity of individual libraries should be maintained where autonomy will best meet the special and particular needs of the individual library's constituents.

**Issue #6**

WHEREAS, It has been established that there is at present no criterion or standards applied to library services for Indians and no formal means of communication among organizations interested in or actually providing library, media or information services, governmental or non-governmental at the national, regional, state or reservation levels to encourage cooperation in the delivery of information services,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that an Indian library consortium be established consisting of those organizations interested in or providing library/media/information services to Indian people on reservations and sponsor the formation of an Indian library association which could develop standards for Indian libraries, and that initiatives in this direction be undertaken as a part of the White House Pre-Conference follow-up.

**Should there be access?**

**Issue #1**

WHEREAS, Library cooperatives serving all types of libraries should be able to connect with a national information resource for immediate reference service,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that as a step toward a library information network, the experimental and successful Library of Congress hotline project, terminated by Congress for lack of funding on

August 31, 1977 be re-established and expanded.

**Issue #2**

WHEREAS, Various roadblocks, often resulting from politically established boundaries such as those of cities, counties, villages and townships, impede many potential library patrons from using such libraries,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that such roadblocks be regularly examined and, whenever possible, removed.

**Issue #3**

WHEREAS, The ability to effectively deal with information is becoming increasingly critical in our daily lives,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that adult needs for library and information services be given serious consideration in school and academic, and public libraries.

**Issue #4**

WHEREAS, Large areas of Michigan are presently inadequately served by libraries and information services,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that federally funded demonstration libraries, possibly modeled on the program established in Washington state, be set up in selected isolated areas to operate for a minimum of three years. Libraries would then be turned over to local governmental units and area library cooperatives to fund and to operate if the citizens of the areas wish to retain them. At that time, if continued service is desired, local governmental units would assume funding and control.

### How can resources be shared?

**Issue #1**

WHEREAS, A more comprehensive access to all resources of all libraries of the state would benefit the citizens of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Computerized means are available to us to create and share information among libraries and regions in the state,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that funding be made available so that the State Library in associaton with the Michigan Library Consortium and other state library agencies build and share a bibliographic database of the holdings of the libraries of Michigan.

**Issue #2**

WHEREAS, School libraries and public libraries serve many of the same populace and have many overlapping resources and services,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that school libraries and public libraries, working in concert with the Michigan Department of Education, promote cooperative efforts for sharing resources and services to their joint public.

**Issue #3**

WHEREAS, Sharing of resources among libraries may be impeded by the lack of adequate distribution of costs and failure to insure adequate compensation to libraries whose resources are most heavily taxed,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that libraries using the resources of other libraries should pay their fair share, and libraries should be adequately compensated when they provide such resources.

### Cooperation

**Issue #1**

WHEREAS, The volume of information, publications, and media has and continues to expand geometrically, taking it beyond the resources of most libraries to purchase and to maintain complete collections in all subject areas,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that all libraries in the state work to develop means of greater cooperation and sharing of resources.

**Issue #2**

WHEREAS, In order to better serve library patrons, it is necesary to be aware of library collections and since computerization of such collections is not always feasible,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that librarians from all types of libraries in the individual Regional Education Center (REMC) districts meet to discuss their collections and eventually publish directories of such collections, including availability to the public, location, services, hours, human resources, etc. to be compiled into a state directory and eventually into a national directory.

**Issue #3**

WHEREAS, Michigan State Libraries have been leaders in cooperative efforts among various libraries,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that this conference endorses these efforts with appreciation and encourages their continuance.

## Topic VI: Technology

### Improving Library Collections: The format of information is only one consideration of materials to be included in your library's collection. . .

### Does the content of the collection reflect the needs?

**Issue #1**

WHEREAS, It is recognized that individual needs of communities are diverse and varied,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that libraries evaluate their programs and materials periodically using such methods as surveys, public hearings, or citizens' committees.

**Issue #2**

WHEREAS, The library has many special constituencies which it should serve; women, impoverished, handicapped, homosexuals, bilingual persons, ethnic groups and other similar special interest groups,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that library collections include information by and for these interest groups which accurately represent them, and reflect their range of values or reading levels. Controversial topics should be included.

**Issue #3**

WHEREAS, Federal, state and local governments collect, compile and publish information on almost every field of human knowledge and access to this information is crucial to informed public decision-making.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that federal, state and local government units be encouraged to establish policies to deposit copies of their government publications in libraries for free public access.

### Are libraries using the latest technology available to them?

**Issue #1**

WHEREAS, Use of telecommunication will become as important as use of the United States Postal Service,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that preferential tariff rates for

telecommunication cost be established for non-profit library use based on the precedent of reduced postal rates for non-profit libraries.

**Issue #2**

WHEREAS, Information technology such as computers and electronic data processing are advancing at a tremendous pace with possible solutions to library problems,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that

A. The federal government should support and fund research projects in the use of libraries to provide citizen access to automated information systems,

B. A government program should be instituted to publicize the advantages of an intelligently planned and programmed information technology, with attention being paid to its opportunities as well as its problems, such as training of library personnel in use of computers and safeguarding individual privacy,

C. Federal, state and local governments guarantee equal citizen access to information technology,

D. Information technology be applied to storage, bibliographic identification, location, retrieval and transmission of information to facilitate sharing of resources.

**Issue #3**

WHEREAS, The prevalent use in publishing of acid-base paper has resulted in the increasingly rapid deterioration of book and serial collections,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that solutions to this problem be researched.

**Information Regarding Resolutions**

68 resolutions were voted on at the action session. Ten were defeated. Three of those ten should be considered here:

WHEREAS, Functionally illiterate persons are at a disadvantage in an information-oriented society,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that libraries assume a leadership role in establishing or improving programs which provide reading skills for all persons with reading problems.

WHEREAS, Gifted children have been left to their own devices and as a result have become a neglected minority whose tremendous potential is being wasted,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that federal and state funding be made available for the building of collections of materials and services to be used by gifted individuals, their parents, and teachers.

WHEREAS, Interaction with real materials and access to stimulating toys, games, and hands-on experiences is as basic to learning as access to traditional books and audio-visual materials for all children and many adults,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that federal, state, and local funding be made available for the establishment and maintenance of realia collections in public libraries.

It is difficult to conjecture why these were defeated. Perhaps librarians and lay persons are not convinced that libraries should take responsibility for these specific areas.

At the same time, other resolutions related to the above issues were voted on affirmatively:

WHEREAS, The dissemination of information is of crucial importance in a democracy, and some groups of citizens have needs which are not being adequately met,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that public libraries identify such groups and implement outreach programs utilizing all library materials and services.

WHEREAS, Parents need and request assistance in providing good pre-reading experiences for their very young children,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that public librarians, specially trained in early childhood education, provide enrichment programs for pre-schoolers and guidance in early childhood education for their parents.

WHEREAS, The library has many special constituencies which it should serve; women, impoverished, handicapped, homosexuals, bilingual persons, ethnic groups and other similar special interest groups,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that library collections include information by and for these interest groups which accurately represent them, and reflect their range of values or reading levels. Controversial topics should be included.

WHEREAS, An informed citizenry is the basis of our democratic society and the cost of services may become a roadblock to access of information,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that library service and materials should be guaranteed for all citizens.

It is possible that some misunderstood the defeated resolutions, or that there were too few delegates with this frame of reference.

Certainly other fields of interest such as hearing impaired, the Indian, the handicapped and others were well represented.

# Michigan White House Conference On Libraries and Information Services

## Committees

*Honorary Chairperson*
J.P. McCarthy
WJR Radio
Detroit

*Chairperson*
Dr. Jean Lowrie, Director
School of Librarianship
Western Michigan University

*State Librarian*
Francis X. Scannell
Michigan Department of Education
State Library Services

*State Liaison-Coordinator*
Elizabeth Lindsey
Consultant
Continuing Library Education
Michigan Department of Education
State Library Services

*Parliamentarian*
John H. Veltema
Jenison Public Schools

*Staff Assistant*
Mary Houghton
Michigan Department of Education
State Library Services

National Commission on Library and Information Science
White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services

*Liaison*
Heather Nicoll

*National Planning Committee*
Michigan Representatives
Representative William D. Ford
19th Congressional District

Martha Williams
Detroit Public Schools

### Executive Committee

Dr. Jean Lowrie
Conference Chairperson
School of Librarianship
Western Michigan University

Francis X. Scannell
State Librarian

Elizabeth Lindsey
Coordinator and State Liaison
State Library Services

Mary Aikey
Executive Director
Lansing YWCA

Thomas Alford
Director
Library Network of Macomb

Mary Brand
PTA Representative

Dr. Richard Chapin
Michigan State University Libraries

Elaine Didier
Bureau of School Services
University of Michigan

Lawrence Cole
Public Relations
Lifelong Education Programs
Michigan State University

Joseph Druse
Professor
Michigan State University

Jean Frazier
Writer
Homemaker

John Gaffney
President
Association of Independent
Colleges and Universities

Virginia Hutcheson
Michigan Council of Humanities

Ruth Graham
Consultant
Grand Rapids Public Schools

Elizabeth Hayden
Lansing Public Library

Susan Haskin
State Library Services

Mary Ann Hanna
State Library Services

Kenneth King
Director
Mount Clemens Public Library

June Klein
Fraser, Michigan

Barry McGuire
Executive Director
Michigan Association of Counties

Elizabeth Moore
Michigan Bell Telephone Company

Ruth Patrick
Wayne State University Libraries

Ellen Person
Lansing Community College

Dale Pretzer
State Library Services

Arnold Rzepecki
Sacred Heart Seminary Library

Pat Slocum
State Library Services

Helen Syswerda
Lansing School Libraries

Marlene Thayer
State Library Services

Faith Van Toll
Kentucky-Ohio-Michigan
Regional Medical Library

Joanne Wilcox
Publisher
Library Trustee

Martha Williams
Detroit Board of Education

**Steering Committee**
(See also Executive Committee)

Russell E. Bidlack
School of Library Science
University of Michigan

Rolland Billings
Ann Arbor Public Schools
Library Director

Lana Boldi
International Union U.A.W.

Robert Booth, Director
Division of Library Science
Wayne State University

Herman Coleman, Executive Director
Michigan Education Association

Martha Dygert
Curriculum Consultant
Kent Intermediate School District

The Honorable William Faust
Senator

Neil Freeling
1918 Cole Street

Dr. Phillip Gannon, President
Lansing Community College

Robert Gaylor
Michigan Library Association

Carol Genco
Michigan Municipal League

Budd Goodwin, State Secretary
Lion's International
Michigan State Office

Gail Graham
League of Women Voters

Margaret Grazier
Division of Library Science
Wayne State University

Annie Green
Michigan Indian Affairs Commission

Annece Hadden
Michigan Farm Bureau

A.K. Hanna
American Association of Retired
Persons

Diane Holbel
State Board for Libraries
Governor's Representative

Betty Irgens
Michigan Association for the Deaf

Barbara Jacoby
Ingham Intermediate School District

Lois Kuntz
MLA Trustee Division

Ray H. Lawson
Michigan Association of the Professions

The Honorable Lucille McCullough
House of Representatives

Charles McKee
Michigan Adult Education Association

Ceola McKinney
Michigan Federation of Teachers

Albert P. Marshall
Rotary International

Dave Olson
State Archivist

Eleanor Pinkham
Kalamazoo College Library

Sue Pogarch
Michigan Jayceettes

Jerry Roe, Executive Director
Michigan Republican State Committee

James Platte
Lansing Community College

Frances Pletz
Executive Director
Michigan Library Association

Robert Robinson
Michigan Township Association

Carl Sachtleben
Michigan Library Consortium

Robert St. Louis
Michigan Library Trustee

Mert Scholten
Michigan State Medical Society

Craig Smith
Corporate Industrial Design
Burroughs Corporation

Martha Thornton
NAACP

Richard White
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Morley Winograd
Democratic Party of Michigan

**Local Arrangements**

* Indicates membership on Executive Committee

* Dr. Richard Chapin
*Co-Chairperson*
Doris Asher
Cathy Brown
Linda DeWit
Richard Douglass
Ruth Hilliard
Marcia Horvath
Donald Leaf
Paulette Sharkey
* Jean Frazier
*Co-Chairperson*
Ann Hester
Phyllis Maner
Janice Munger
Elizabeth Spencer
Cordell Henderson

**Area Conference Sites**

* Thomas Alford
*Chairperson*
Helen Syswerda
Frances Pletz

**Guidelines for Area Meetings**

* Ellen Person
*Co-Chairperson*
* Mary Brand
Beth Code
* Elaine Didier
Russell Bidlack
Gail Graham
Margaret Grazier
* Kenneth King
*Co-Chairperson*
Robert Booth
Eleanor Pinkham
Peter Kempel
Diane Holbel
* Pat Slocum

**Audio-Visual Sub-Committee**

Beth Code
*Co-Chairperson*
* Elaine Didier
Judy Steepleton
Martin Cohen
Jan Fortenbacher
David Hessler
Liga Miervaldis

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Oakwoods Media Personnel** | Dave Curl<br>Bob Lane | Ardyce Czuchna | |
| **Delegates Committee** | * Joann Wilcox<br>*Co-Chairperson*<br>Rolland Billings<br>James Buckingham<br>Mrs. Judy Furman<br>Dave Olson | Ruth Rivard<br>Robert St. Louis<br>Kathryn Boucher<br>* John Gaffney<br>*Co-Chairperson*<br>Kay Elzinga | A.P. Marshall<br>Mrs. Frances Pletz<br>Carl Sachtleben<br>Mrs. Fleta Swanson<br>Mrs. Mattie Lee Townsend |
| **Displays and Demonstrations** | * Elaine Didier<br>*Chairperson*<br>Peter Young<br>Richard DeBear | Ardith Embs<br>John Riegel<br>Leonard E. Thomas | |
| **Finance Committee** | * Dale Pretzer<br>*Chairperson*<br>* Mary Aikey | * Virginia Hutcheson<br>Lois Kuntz<br>Dr. Phillip J. Gannon | Robert Gaylor<br>Charles Wolfe<br>Annece Hadden |
| **Evaluations** | * Ruth Patrick<br>*Chairperson*<br>Arthur Curley | Jean Fair<br>Margaret Grazier<br>Albert Mallory | |
| **Elections** | * Marlene Thayer<br>*Chairperson*<br>Mary Jane Trout<br>Mildred Nickel<br>Carol Pelkey<br>Lou Anne Boone | Elizabeth Anisi<br>LaDuska Sheldon<br>Theone "Teddy" Al-Ashari<br>Naida Kenyon<br>Barbara Johnson<br>Sarah Bell | Tonya Green<br>Eileen Droscha<br>Joy Boroday<br>Marjorie Young<br>Gail Graham |
| **Program Committee** | * Professor Joseph Druse<br>*Co-Chairperson* | * Ruth Graham<br>*Co-Chairperson* | |
| **Procedures** | * Susan M. Haskin<br>*Chairperson*<br>Ann Johnson | Mary Anna Hill<br>Ford Ceasar<br>* Ellen Person | |
| **Issues** | * Faith Van Toll<br>*Co-Chairperson* | * June Klein<br>*Co-Chairperson* | |
| **Workshop For Group Discussion Leaders/ Recorders** | * Mary Ann Hanna<br>*Co-Chairperson* | * Pat Slocum<br>*Co-Chairperson* | |

**Resolutions Committee**

*Elizabeth Hayden
*Chairperson*
Lucille Amon
Patricia Anderson
Gordon Eriksen
Howard Lipton
Al Mann
Frances Pletz
Sharon Reid
*Arnold Rzepecki
Pamela Sutorius
*Faith Van Toll

**Public Relations**

*Elizabeth Moore
*Co-Chairperson*
Mrs. Grant Baker
*Lawrence Cole
Neal Freeling
Ceola McKinney
F. Gerrit Veldman
*Arnold Rzepecki
*Co-Chairperson*
A.K. Hanna
Carol Genco
*Barry McGuire
Gwendolyn Snell
Craig Smith
Jim Dance

**Group Discussion Leaders**

Frederick Michels
Linda Schweizer
Robert Geiman
Edward Wall
Barbara Jacoby
Jane Cameron
Marcy Murphy
Gordon Thomas
Joan Trezise
Sandra Scherba
Peter Niemi
Kent Voigt
Dave Olson
Gail Laufle
H.G. Johnston
John Cooper
Jane Flener
Lucy Ainsley
Joan Wardowski
Mary Aikey
Carolyn McMillen
Elvera Phillips
Russell Bidlack
Michael Deller
Ruth Hilliard

**Recorders**

Jeanine Marchand
Kathleen Zaenger
Peter Legler
Eleanor McKinney
Pamala Fowler
Helvi Walkonen
Marvin Monsma
Beth Code
Ronald Leach
Patricia Bristor
Charles Harper
Joan Fairey
Kenneth King
Mary Jane Boughner
Esther McGinnis
Robert McConnell
William Stoddard
Frank Queener
Ceola McKinney
Judith Field
Esther Marcus
Milos Taborsky
Carol Genco
Catherine Ford
Mabel Grannis

**Resource Persons**

Ellen Person
Bernice Lamkin
Rose Vainstein
William Henderson
Alberta Massingill
Robert Gibson
Charles Wolfe

**Position Papers**

**Authors**

John Aubry
Beverly Papai
Frances Pletz, and
Dale Pretzer
Dave Hessler

*Networking and Resource Sharing*
*Access & Barrier Free Libraries*

*Funding of the Political System*
*Technology*

**Evaluators**

Dale Pretzer
Genevieve Casey

William Kandler
Elaine Didier and
Doran Osborne

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Ellen Thornton | *Outreach* | H.G. Johnston |
| Louise Millar | *Outreach* | H.G. Johnston |
| Ardith Embs and Gordon Eriksen | *Public Relations and Educating the Public* | Lawrence Cole |

Background Papers have also been written on Academic, School, Law Libraries and Education for Librarians.

**Selection of Honorary Chairperson**

Joann Wilcox
A.P. Marshall
Russell Bidlack
*Kenneth King
*F.X. Scannell

**Interpreters for the Hearing Impaired**

Agnes Foret
El Marie Kirby
Mary Lanaville
Marie Henderson

Students from the Western Michigan University and University of Michigan library schools voluntered their time and talents in various capacities.

**Area Meetings**

| Area | Site | Chairperson | Co-Chairperson |
|---|---|---|---|
| Area 1 | Escanaba | Charles Harper | Janet Gustafson |
| Area 2 | Marquette | Helvi Walkonen | Pauline St. Germaine |
| Area 3 | Sault Ste. Marie | James Moody | Clarence Moher |
| Area 4 | Alpena | Roger Mendel | Carola Cohn |
| Area 5 | Traverse City | Michael McGuire | Elinor Brakeman |
| Area 6 | Tawas City | Mark Ames | Alfred Mardon |
| Area 7 | Ludington | James Matheny<br>Don Best | T.A. Winkel |
| Area 8 | Grand Valley State College | Stephen Ford | Gerald Elliott |
| Area 9 | Saginaw | Susan Hill | Ruth Jaffe |
| Area 10 | Port Huron | Harry P. Wu | Timothy Lozen |
| Area 11 | Flint | Eugene Griffel | Deena Sloane |
| Area 12 | Lansing | James P. Platte | Lillian Hargrove |
| Area 13 | Kalamazoo | Carl Sachtleben | John Bright |
| Area 14 | Benton Harbor | William Hessel | Sue Warren |
| Area 15 | Jackson | Robert Raz | Pat Geishert<br>Gene Hartwig |
| Area 16 | Ann Arbor | Gene Wilson | Meri Lou Murray |
| Area 17 | Monroe | Bernard Margolis | Stacy Zilke<br>Dr. Chester Antieau |
| Area 18 | Dearborn | Rollin P. Marquis<br>Margie B. Tinsley | Richard Ruddell |
| Area 19 | Detroit | Clara Jones<br>Jane Hale Morgan | Paul T. Scupholm |
| Area 20 | Southfield | Douglas Zyskowski | Florine Marks |
| Area 21 | Mt. Clemens | Thomas Alford | Steve Morris |

**Area Public Relation Contacts**

Charles Harper
Michael McGuire
Mark Ames
James Matheny
Linda Wallace
Rollin P. Marquis
Cliff Tierney
Robert Raz
Ruth Haldeman
Bernard Margolis
George Hebeen
Jim Dance

**Picture Credits**

Dennis Cullinan
pages 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

Elaine Didier
pages 4, 6, 7, 10

Brent Duncan
pages cover, 2, 5, 9, 11